referring disinvestment of a particular unit to the Disinvestment Commission, does the Government take into consideration the difference between defence and non-defence, strategic and non-strategic? Does it take this into consideration? Or, does it matter little? Is it all done on the whim? This is part (a) of my question. Part (b) of my question is this. While referring disinvestment of a particular unit, that is, the public sector undertaking, to the Disinvestment Commission, does the Government take into consideration that the ownership shall pass on to the private sector? In some cases it is going to be 75 per cent. If the ownership passes on to the private sector, to the private shareholders, what is the impact that it is going to have on the economy in general and on the functioning of that unit in particular? Or, is it being done just to mop up funds to bridge the gap in the Budget?

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: Sir, Basically he has put a question whether we are going to do this or that. The answer to both the questions is yes. With regard to the other part of the question, no disinvestment is done in the strategic sector. That is number one. I have already stated that. The disinvestment is done to provide market discipline, to improve the performance of public sector enterprises, to raise, as the hon. Member has said, resources, to encourage wider public participation and to promote accountability.

सरकारी क्षेत्र के अंतर्गत कोयला उत्पादक औद्योगिक एकक

*364. **श्री बरजिन्दर सिंह:**
श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिया: †

क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकारी क्षेत्र के बहुत से कोयला उत्पादक औद्योगिक एकक गत कई वर्षों से निरंतर घाटे में चल रहे हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो ये एकक कौन-कौन से हैं और मार्च, 1998 तक इन्हें कुल कितना नुकसान हुआ; और

(ग) मार्च, 1998 तक इन एककों में कुल कितना पूंजी-निवेश हुआ?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री दिलिप राय): (क) और (ख) कोल इंडिया लि० (को० इं० लि०) एक धारक कंपनी है, जो भारत सरकार के प्रशासनिक नियंत्रण के अंतर्गत एक कोयला उत्पादक सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र का उपक्रम है। ईस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लि० (ई० को० लि०), भारत कोकिंग कोल लि० (भा० को० को० लि०), कोल इंडिया लि० की सहायक कंपनियां और नार्थ ईस्टर्न कोलफील्ड (ना० ई० को०), जो कि को० इं० लि० के सीधे नियंत्रण में आने वाली एक यूनिट है, में घाटा हो रहा है। 31.3.97 की स्थिति के अनसार ई० को० लि० के सीधे नियंत्रण में आने वाली एक यूनिट है, में घाटा हो रहा है। भा० को० को० लि० और ना० ई० को० में हुए संचित घाटे का ब्यौरा निम्न है:—

(करोड़ रु० में)

	संचित घाटा
ई०को०लि०	1186.72
भा०को०को०लि०	1513.58
ना०ई०को०	61.16

इन कंपनियों/यूनिटों के 1997-98 के वार्षिक लेखों की लेखा परीक्षा अभी तक नहीं की गई है।

(ग) दिनांक 31.3.97 तक इन कंपनियों/यूनिटों में कुल पूंजीगत निवेश नीचे दिया गया है:—

(करोड़ रु० में)

	पूंजीगत निवेश
ई०को०लि०	3999.12
भा०को०को०लि०	3184.02
ना०ई०को०	131.59

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMUWALIA: Sir, ECL is heading for a staggering loss of Rs. 500 crores during the current financial year. Till the last financial year, 1997 this company has

†सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिया द्वारा पूछा गया।

already incurred an accumulated loss of Rs. 1,186.72 crores. I am afraid, no serious effort is being made to meet these losses. The only effort which was made was, in 1997, the coal production target was fixed at 32.5 million tonnes. What is the outcome? What to say of meeting the fixed target of coal production, the ECL and other units could not even match the production of the previous year, 1996-97. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what serious efforts are they making to make up the loss? What are the reasons for losses in ECL and BCCL? What are the detailed reasons of losses which are accumulating for so many years?

SHRI DILIP RAY: Sir, I have already mentioned in reply to the first question that these are very old mines. The mining process started in the year 1774. From the day the Coal India Ltd. was taken over by the Government of India, it has been continuously making losses. There are many reasons. We have got surplus manpower. There are a large number of uneconomic underground mines and there are very adverse geo-mining conditions. In West Bengal the cess rates are very high. In ECL, there is the problem of law and order and industrial unrest. So far as BCCL is concerned, again there are old underground mines and adverse geo-mining conditions with steep and multiple seams. There are incidents of fire and subsidence. There is a fire at 70 places in an area of 17 sq. kilometres which has been going on for 90 years. We are trying to contain that. So far as NEC is concerned, in that area there is high degree of sulphur and there is no rail movement. Sir, these are the main reasons why ECL, BCCL and NEC are running in losses.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Sir, we cannot ignore the capital which has been invested in ECL, BCCL and NEC. The Minister has mentioned in his reply that the capital investment in ECL is Rs. 3,999.12 crores. In BCCL, it is Rs. 3,184.02 crores and in NEC it is 131.59 crores. Sir, such a huge amount has been invested. But there is no result. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Ministry has drawn up any revival plan for ECL and BCCL to overcome the critical financial conditions faced by these units for the last so many years?

SHRI DILIP RAY: The ICICI has made a study for recommending revival package based on mine-to-mine analysis. The report is expected by the end of August. As per the provisional figures, the ECL has already made a loss of Rs. 673 crores this year.

And the workforce-in-ECL,— BCCL and NEC is more than what is required there. We have got 39,000 to 40,000 surplus workers. We are stopping overtime and working on holidays. We are dismissing habitual absentees. Employment to dependants are considered subject to vacancies. And we have already started suspension of work on uneconomical mines; it is not real closure of mines. In the revival measures for BCCL as well, we have got reduction of surplus manpower, closure of loss-making mines and increasing the productivity of men and machines.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: As a revival measure, you have already shed 400 jobs in the coal sector. You are only talking of shedding of jobs. I want to know the details of the revival schemes that you have.

SHRI DILIP RAY: The ICICI is drawing a package plan which is coming out at the end of August. We will decide it after we get the report.

SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Sir, I would like to know whether the NLC is running on profit or loss. This is part (a) of my question. The second part of my question is whether the Government is aware that the officials in connivance with private contractors are looting the NLC. And the third part of my question

is whether the Government is aware of the employment opportunities to be given to those who have given the lands to NLC. Those who are soft-pedalling with the officials are given the jobs and those who are fighting for enhanced compensation are denied of the job opportunities.

SHRI DILIP RAY: The NLC is a part of the CIL. It produces lignite and in turn produces power. It has got its own power plant. His questions do not come within the purview of the main question.

डा० जगन्नाथ मिश्र: सभापति महोदय, उत्तर में बी०सी०सी०एल०, ई०सी०एल० और एन०एल०सी० के सम्बन्ध में जो ब्यौरा प्रस्तुत किया गया है उस सम्बन्ध में हम जानना चाहेंगे कि बी०सी०सी०एल० एकमात्र कुकिंग कोल के उत्पादन की इकाई है कोल इंडिया लि० के अन्तर्गत, जो पुराना है, यह सही है। लेकिन आधुनिकीकरण की और विस्तार की सम्भावनाएं हैं वहां पर। वहां नॉन-वाएबिल समझते हुए कुछ इकाईयों को बंद किया गया तथा कुछ को छोड़ा गया—हजारी बाग और गिरीडीह इलाके में। हम जानना चाहेंगे कि जिन-जिन इकाइयों को बंद कर दिया गया, रोक दिया गया क्या उनके आधुनिकीकरण या विस्तार के संदर्भ में फिर से सम्मिलित करने पर सरकार विचार करेगी? दूसरा, यह कि क्या ऐसे प्रतिष्ठान जिन्हें सरकार ने वहां छोड़ दिया था उन्हें निजी क्षेत्र में देने की सम्भावना पर सरकर गंभीरता से विचार करेगी?

SHRI DILIP RAY: Sir, I have already mentioned that we will not close the mines. These will be kept under suspension. Regarding privatisation, we have not decided what to do about it.

*365. *[The questioner (Shri W. Angou Singh) was absent for answer vide col. 37 infra]*

Outstanding interest of singareni collieries

*366. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a request to waive the outstanding interest of Rs. 663 crores accrued during VIII Plan in respect of Singareni Collieries;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) the steps proposed to stregthen the financial position of Singareni Collieries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to waive the outstanding interest of Rs. 663 crores accrued during VIII Plan in respect of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited has been received in the Ministry of Coal. This is part of an overall rehabilitation plan submitted by the Company. The proposal is under examination.

DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Sir, the hon. Minister, in his reply, has stated that this is part of an overall rehabilitation plan submitted by the company and that the proposal is under examination. But part (c) of my question pertained to the steps proposed to strengthen the financial position of Singareni Collieries. I would like to know what steps have been proposed by the Government in this regard.

Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply, "This is a part of an overall rehabilitation plan submitted by the company. The proposal is under examination". But part (c) of my question was about the steps proposed to strengthen the financial position of Singareni Collieries. I am asking about proposals of the Government of India.

मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि आन्ध्र प्रदेश सरकार से जो प्रपोज़ल आया है वह अंडर ऐक्ज़ामीनेशन है मेरा "सी" पार्ट का प्रश्न है कि भारत सरकार का क्या प्रपोज़ल है?

SHRI DILIP RAY: Sir, the request is for waiving the outstanding interest of Rs. 663 crores accrued during the 8th Plan. We are recommending that and we are working on that. That is the proposal which is under consideration. And that is how we are trying to help. By doing this,